

VIOLENCE FAQs: A FACT SHEET FOR JOB CORPS STAFF

I've read a lot about the school shootings in Virginia Tech and other places. What can I do to make sure something like this doesn't happen on my center?

School shootings are scary. As a Job Corps staff member, you can prevent a violent incident by learning the warning signs and how to respond to them. People who commit acts of violence almost always exhibit warning signs.

OK, so what are the warning signs?

There are some warning signs that often precede acts of violence, from fistfights to more serious incidents. Monitor students who lose their temper on a regular basis, announce threats or plans for hurting someone, express a fascination with weapons, have been a victim of bullying, withdrawal from friends or activities, or have a history of violent or aggressive behavior.



Learn more about bullying, suicide, and violence prevention, and occupational health on the SafetyNet, located at <https://supportservices.jobcorps.gov/health/Pages/SafetyNet.aspx>.

Are there different warning signs for more serious acts of violence?

Glad you asked. After the tragedy at Virginia Tech, a team evaluated the school's response. Researchers included information on red flags, warning signs, and indicators of school shooters in this report. Some of them include:

- Behaviors—stalking; writing stories, essays, or composition with violent themes; drawing pictures that depict violence
- Appearance—imitation of other murderers in appearance, dress, grooming, or possessions; expressionless face or inability to express joy and pleasure
- Interests—fascination with deadly weapons such as semiautomatic pistols, snub nose revolvers, special ammunition and explosives; boasting and practicing of fighting and combat proficiency; interest in previous shooting situations
- Things they may express—suicidal thoughts; a victim/martyr self concept; paranoia

What should I do if I think a student is contemplating violence?

Communicate with other center staff. While it is important to protect students' privacy, it is more important to have a safe environment. If you think a student is a threat to themselves or others, do not keep it to yourself. Talk with your Center Director, Center Mental Health Consultant, or someone else on center who is designated to assess risk.